

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3115

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 3364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, UR, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPT CALLS FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE

SUMMARY. CAIRO PRESS ANNOUNCED GOE HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED
USGAND USSR TO "BEGIN CONTACTS" FOR RESUMPTION OF GENEVA.
REPORTEDLY, GOE IS CONSIDERING UTILITY OF PARTICIPATION UK,
FRANCE AND A NON-ALIGNED STATE IN CONFERENCE. WE HAVE UNCONFIRMED
REPORT GOE AND SAG MAY BE SEEKING PERSUADE PLO TO AGREEE
TO JORDANIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. END SUMMARY.

1. CAIRO PRESS APRIL 2 LEADS WITH STORY OF FAHMY'S OFFICIAL
REQUEST TO USG AND USSR TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY NECESSARY CONTACTS
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FOR RESUMING GENEVA CONFERENCE. FRONT PAGES FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH
OF PRESIDENT SADAT SHAKING HANDS WITH AMBASSADOR EILTS, AN

OBVIOUS SIGNAL OF CONTINUING GOE TRUST IN USG.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, EGYPT IS PREPARED TO GO TO GENEVA TO DISCUSS WHOLE ME CRISIS. FAHMY REPORTEDLY SAID HE HAS CONTACTED PALESTINIANS AND DISCUSSED MATTER WITH ABU IYAD. HE TOLD JOURNLISTS EGYPT SUPPORTS PRESENCE OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS FRANCE AND UK AT GENEVA AND WOULD ALSO "WELCOME" PARTICIPATION OF A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY". FAHMY REPORTEDLY ADDED AGENDA WILL BE SUBJECT OF COORDINATION BETWEEN GOE, SARG, GOJ, PALESTINIANS, AAND LEBANON.

2. ALTHOUGH FACT EGYPT CONSIDERING PROPOSED PRESENCE OF FRANCE AND UK AT GENEVA WAS KNOWN IN CAIRO, PARTICIPATION OF A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY WILL SURPRISE MANY. REPORTEDLY, YUGOSLAV AND INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO CONFER WITH FAHMY IN CAIRO ON THIS SUBJECT. PRESS REPORTS ALSO THAT "THERE IS A PROPOSAL" THAT NON-ALIGNED STATES CALL A CONFERENCE IN CAIRO DURING APRIL "TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY DURING THIS DELICATE STAGE OF ME CRISIS." REPORTEDLY, CONFERENCE WOULD BE ATTENDED BY 17 COUNTRIES FORMING PERMANENT OFFICE OF NON-ALIGNED STATES. PRESS ALSO ANNOUNCES TITO HAS RENEWED INVITATION TO SADAT TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA, AND THAT YUGOSLAV MINWAR HAS INVITED EGYPTIAN MINWAR GAMASY TO VISIT AS WELL.

3. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN MEDIA CONTINUE TO ABJURE EDITORIAL COMMENT ON USG REASSESSMENT OF ME POLICY, REPORTAGE IS MILDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT RESULTS MAY BE FAVORABLE TO ARAB SIDE. CAIRO VOICE OF PALESTINE, HOWEVER, TAKES OPPOSITE VIEW. APRIL 1 BROADCAST CALLED REASSESSMENT A "TRAP" WHICH REPRESENTS CHANGE IN CONTINUING USG INTENTION TO IMPOSE SETTLEMENT SERVING ISRAEL'S INTEREST. VOP CLAIMS EVIDENCE FOR THIS IS THAT USG WILL MAKE NO CHANGE IN PLANS FOR AID TO ISRAEL. AHRAM APRIL 2, TAKING OPPOSITE TACK, BANNERS: "WASHINGTON STOPS ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL UNTIL US REASSESSES ITS POLICY."

4. JORDANIAN EMBOFFFTELLS US HE WAS INTERESTED TO SEE GOJ WAS INCLUDED BY FAHMY IN LISTING OF ARAB PARTIES WHO SHOULD BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON GENEVA AGENDA. HE CLAIMED GOE AND SAG
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HAD ENDEAVORED PERSUADE PLO TO AGREE TO GOJ PRESENCE AT GENEVA, EVEN THOUGH CAIRO AND RIYADH ARE AWARE THAT HUSAIN HAS INSISTED HE WILL NOT ATTEND UNLESS A NEW ARAB SUMMIT REVERSES RABAT SUMMIT'S DECISION ON PLO'S SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL PALESTINIAN MATTERS.
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